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**SUMMARY**

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# PRINCIPLES OF RATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINING INDUSTRY IN THE USSR

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# PRINCIPLES OF RATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINING INDUSTRY IN THE USSR

By

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In 1913 Russia was some 50-100 years behind other countries in economic development. Now the USSR holds first place in Europe in the main kinds of industrial production and first place in the world in iron ore and coal output, and in some other types of production.

The basic principles of industrial development that ensured such a progress consist in the following:

1. Social property on means of production that excludes the appearance of economic crises and chronic unemployment, which are a drag on industrial development,

2. Planning of the people's economy, which ensures correct proportions of different industries development, preferential development of the production of means of production, proper distribution of industry, increase of productivity of labour and real wages of the working people,

3. Electrification of all branches of the people's economy which ensures technical progress.

Since 1913 till 1960 the gross industrial output of the USSR rose 45-fold, whereas that of Great Britain and the USA only about 2-5 fold during the same period. The output of coal, oil and steel rose 15.16-fold in the USSR, the generation of electric power - 150-fold and the output of mechanical engineering and metal-working industry - 300-fold.

Beginning with 1928 planning of the people's economy in the USSR was carried out under the five-year plans. In connection with an increased scope of construction planning under seven-year plans was introduced since 1959 and in 1961 basic aspects of a 20-year general economic development plan were worked out. All projected plans have been invariably fulfilled ahead of schedule.

The principle economic task of the USSR is to create the material and technical basis of communism in the course of two decades. For this purpose it will be necessary to increase the industrial output not less than 6-fold and raise the productivity of labour 4-4.5-fold. In 20 years the industry of the USSR will produce nearly twice as much as is now produced in the whole non-socialist world.

The planned growth of industrial output will require a quick increase in production of metal and fuel, which constitute the foundation of modern industry.

The production of steel is planned to reach 250 million tons annually, or 3.8 times as much as compared to 1960. The output of all kinds of fuel will increase about 4-fold, including gas extraction - 14.4 - 15.2-fold, oil extraction - 4.7 - 4.8-fold and coal extraction - 2.3-fold.

Now the USSR holds first place in the world in the potential capacity of its natural fuel-energy resources and in reserves of iron and a number of other metal ores. Due to broad geological work.

The pattern of the country's fuel supply is planned to be changed and is being changed. The share of coal extraction in the total output of all kinds of fuel was increasing till 1950 and began to decrease during subsequent years at the account of more economical types of fuel and chemical raw materials.

Changes in the geographical location of extraction of various kinds of fuel took and are taking place among the economic areas of the country. Instead of one coal-metallurgical base in the Donets coal basin since 1913 several bases have been created in different areas of the USSR, namely in the Eastern Urals and the Kuznetsky coal basin to bring together the places of extraction and processing of minerals. The centre of extraction was shifted from the European to the Asian part of the USSR.

Great changes took place in the methods of coal and ore extraction. Whereas in 1913 almost the whole extraction was made manually by the underground method at the present time the extraction of coal from open-cut mines is ever wider used with the help of powerful excavators. 1/3 of the whole amount of coal in the eastern coal basins is extracted by this method.

According to tentative estimates the coal extraction in the USSR is to be raised to 700 million tons by 1970 and to 1,200 million tons by 1980, in other words it will increase 2.3-fold as compared to 1960. In this case the extraction of coal by a cheap and highly productive open-cut mining method will reach 600-620 million tons or about 52% of the total coal extraction in the USSR and up to 74% of the coal extraction in the eastern basins. At the same time the extraction of coal by the underground hydraulic method will comprise about 10-12% of the total output of coal in the country, or about 25% of the total extraction of coal by the underground method.

The extraction of marketable iron ore in the USSR increased to 106 million tons in 1960 instead of 9.2 million tons in 1913. According to the target figures of the seven-year plan the extraction of iron ore will reach 150-160 million tons in 1965 and 350 million tons in 1980 or 12 times as much as compared to 1940.

Monthly productivity of labour in the coal industry of the USSR was 3.4 times higher in 1960 as compared to 1913. Due to introduction of a complex of technical and organizational measures, whereas the working hours for the underground workers decreased to 6 hours instead of 10-12 hours in 1913.

Average wages of the coal industry workers increased more than 3.5-fold at the present time as compared to the level of 1940. Miners working underground have the right for old-age pension when on reaching 50 years age and 20 year record of service. Miners have a paid leave for 24-27 working days, and those working in remote areas - up to 57 days annually.

Great attention is paid to the improvement of labour safety and health of the miners. Over 1,000 hospitals and polyclinics and up to 2,000 dispensaries function in miners' small towns and villages. Medical aid of all kinds is given free of charge to the whole population of the USSR. Professional skill of the mining industry workers became considerably higher. At present over 40% of the miners have secondary and higher technical education (50-67% - in some coal basins).

Scientific research and design work on the most important mining problems is being carried on in a vast network of scientific, research, design and educational institutes of the mining industry of the USSR.



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